

to supply the desired information, or to furnish him with some of the needed material.

In a second paper<sup>1</sup> he describes some bird bones from Kitchen Midden deposits on the islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. These represent nine species from the former and seven from the latter. A femur and tibia from St. Thomas form the basis of a new genus and species of Rail-like bird, here named *Nesotrochis debooyi* (p. 516), while some vertebrae from a large cooking vessel buried low in the deposit proved those of *Gallus*, agreeing exactly with recent bones of a female domestic fowl.—W. S.

**Five Contributions to Economic Ornithology by Collinge.**—Dr. Walter E. Collinge of the University of St. Andrew's, Scotland, in recent years has been the most active student of Economic Ornithology in Great Britain. It is of interest to note that he is convinced of the superiority of the volumetric method of analyzing the contents of birds' stomachs, he being the first British investigator to adopt it. Two<sup>2</sup> of his recent papers dwell more or less on this topic and in one of them he notes that upon reëxamination of his material representing the missel-thrush, adopting the volumetric instead of the numerical method he formerly used, he is compelled to reverse his estimate of its economic value. This is a striking illustration of the difference in results under the two systems. In this paper Dr. Collinge briefly treats of the economic status of eight common British birds of which two are distinctly injurious, viz., the House Sparrow and the Wood Pigeon; two are too numerous, and consequently injurious, viz., the Rook and the Sparrow Hawk; one is locally too numerous, viz., the Missel Thrush; and four are highly beneficial, viz., the Skylark, the Green Woodpecker, the Kestrel, and the Lapwing.

The other three papers<sup>3</sup> by Dr. Collinge note the necessity of rational bird protection in Great Britain. All inclusive protection urged by propagandists has been overdone, and reaction has followed. Despite the long existence of a government bureau for the scientific investigation of economic ornithology, the United States has not entirely escaped harm resulting from the activities of bird protection zealots. It will be well if the lessons we have had are taken to heart and trouble avoided in the future. Dr. Collinge's summing up of the situation in Great Britain may be quoted:

"1. That in the past the question of wild bird protection and destruction has never received really serious consideration. The objects sought

<sup>1</sup> Bones of Birds Collected by Theodor De Booy from Kitchen Midden Deposits in the Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. By Alexander Wetmore. *Ibid.*, pp. 513-522.

<sup>2</sup> On the Value of the Different Methods of Estimating the Stomach Contents of Wild Birds. *Scottish Naturalist*, May 1918, pp. 103-108, 2 figs.

Some Recent Investigations on the Food of Certain Wild Birds. *Journ. Bd. Agr. [London]*, Vol. XXV, No. 6, Sept. 1918, pp. 668-691, 17 figs.

<sup>3</sup> Wild Birds in Relation to Agriculture, *Jour. Land Agents' Society*, Vol. XVII, No. 5, May 1918, pp. 202-208, 1 fig.

Wild Birds and Legislation, *Ibid.*, No. 7, July 1918, pp. 278-285.

The Value of Insectivorous Birds, *Nature*, July 25, 1918, Reprint pp. 1-4.

in most of the Acts of Parliament upon the subject have been largely of a selfish nature and not for the good of the country."

"2. That the majority of these Acts have been ill-considered and often hastily prepared, many of them have been repealed and others frequently amended or modified."

"3. That no attempt has been made by those who advocate the protection of wild birds, to understand the problem presented by wild bird life. Blindly, and often strongly prejudiced, they advocate protection for all birds, and protection only."

"4. That such an attitude is calling forth a deep resentment from those who have to live by the products of the soil, many of whom having waited in vain for repressive measures, *have now taken to destroying wholesale all bird life.*"

"5. *That the irresponsible advocacy of uniform protection is indirectly contributing more than anything else to the wanton destruction of many of our most useful birds.* 'Some of the very greatest friends that our nation has are being destroyed without mercy . . . a defensive force upon which most of our prosperity depends.'"

"6. That the immediate need of the present is for a wide and comprehensive Act that will give protection to all non-injurious or beneficial birds, and provide adequate repressive measures for those species which have become too numerous and destructive."—W. L. M.

**Chapman's 'Our Winter Birds.'**<sup>1</sup>—Dr. Chapman has the happy faculty of accurately feeling the pulse of the bird-loving public and supplying just what they need almost before they realize their wants. It was so with the appearance of his 'Hand-book' many years ago and his 'Bird Life' and 'Warblers' in more recent years. Still more recently appeared a little monograph, one might almost say a primer, on bird migration under the title 'The Travels of Birds,' and now follows a similar little book on 'Our Winter Birds,' just the thing for school use and for beginners in bird study.

On account of the comparative scarcity of birds in winter there seems to be a special charm at this season in rounding up the whole bird population of one's neighborhood, as evidenced by the popularity of 'Bird-Lore's' Christmas lists, and this little book will do wonders in teaching the public what birds may be seen in the cold months of the year and doubtless prevent many a mistake in identification.

On the inside of the covers are small figures in colors of the common residents and winter visitants from admirable paintings by Mr. E. J. Sawyer, which do away with the necessity of long descriptions and permit the author to devote practically all the text to the habitat, habits and characteristic actions of the species.

The text is divided into four parts, 'Introduction,' 'Home Birds,' 'Field

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<sup>1</sup>Our Winter Birds. How to Know and How to Attract. Illustrations by Edmund J. Sawyer. D. Appleton and Company, New York and London. 1918. 12mo. pp. i-ix — 1-180. Price \$1.25 net; by mail \$1.35.